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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixtieth year

Identical letters dated 28 October 2005 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Over the past four days, Israel, the occupying Power, has been intensifying its military campaign against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. This has included, in particular, an escalation of military raids and attacks, resulting in killing of Palestinians, including extrajudicial killings, and the inflicting of injury on many other innocent Palestinian civilians. The actions taken by the Israeli occupying forces, especially the extrajudicial killings of two Palestinians mentioned in our letter dated 25 October 2005 (A/ES-10/310-S/2005/674), have yet again set in motion a dangerous cycle of violence, sabotaging attempts to ensure calm on the ground and shattering hopes for the resumption of the peace process.

The grim prospect of even more death, wanton destruction and terror being wrought by the Israeli occupying forces upon the Palestinian civilian continues to rise as the occupying Power continues to amass its troops and its heavy military weaponry throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In fact, it has been reported that the security cabinet of the Government of Israel has decided to launch an open-ended military operation against leaders of Palestinian groups. This planned escalation of military attacks and violence by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people can only lead to even more disastrous consequences for the civilian population and to greater instability in the area.

In this connection, today, the Israeli occupying forces, continuing to use excessive and indiscriminate force, fired three missiles from an F-16 warplane at a car near the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza, killing seven Palestinians, including three children, and wounding scores of Palestinian civilians. Among the wounded were women, children and elderly persons, many of whom were seriously wounded. The air strike took place as the streets were thronged with people leaving mosques after attending evening prayers, spreading panic and pandemonium among the innocent bystanders in the vicinity of the attack.

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In addition to the killing and destruction, the occupying Power also persists in its collective punishment of the entire Palestinian population by imposing a strangulating siege on the freedom of movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, continuing to severely affect the socio-economic conditions and the dire humanitarian situation on the ground. At the same time, the Israeli occupying forces continue with their series of arrests, illegally detaining more Palestinian civilians.

The international community, in accordance with the rules and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law, has clear responsibilities in terms of ensuring the proper conduct of the occupying Power, including compliance with its legal obligations and commitments. Moreover, measures must be taken to prevent the further escalation of this Israeli military campaign against the Palestinian civilian population, which remains helpless and without any protection from the brute force of the occupying Power. The continuation and intensification of Israel's military campaign against the Palestinian people will clearly lead only to more bloodshed and to more suffering by innocent civilians on both sides, which should be avoided at all costs.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 224 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 25 October 2005 (A/ES-10/310-S/2005/674) constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my profound regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you, at least seven more Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 3,756. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 28 October 2005 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Thursday, 27 October 2005)

1. Shadi Suhail Muhanna
2. Nafez Mohammed Abu Hassanain
3. Mohammed Rumaih al-Wehaidi
4. Fayez Hassan Badran
5. Rami Riad 'Assaf (17 years old)
6. Karam Mohammed Abu Naji (14 years old)
7. Saleh Suleiman Abu Naji (15 years old)

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 3,756.